

Representative Luxenberg, Senator Moore, and members of the Housing Committee:

My name is Paul Boudreau and I am one of the Co Founders of the Hamden tenants union, A member of CTTU, Recovery for all and a Proud Employee of SEIU State council.

As a fulltime Tenant organizer I have had the privilege of talking to hundreds of tenants all over connecticut. In Hamden, Hartford, New Haven, Windsor, Willimantic, New Britain, Waterbury and many other cities in Connecticut. The stories I've been told over the past two years compelled me to quit my career of 35 years and commit to a life of service to my community.

I am also a renter facing eviction. I've never missed a rent payment in 7 years. Never! but we have spoken out about the deplorable condition we were all forced to live with and my landlord is now in criminal housing court while he is forced to do rudimentary repairs.

We went to our town's Fair Rent Commission. We found partisan politics and commissioners who didn't even seem to have read the ordinance , we had spent a year writing and passing.

AS is the case with many things. Leaving this up to poorly equipped and resistant municipalities to deal with is a recipe for inaction and ultimately, there will be much bigger issues to deal with as a result

But Despite all this, I will be evicted simply because my lease is up. Like so many others in CT who will be retaliated against for filing with their fair rent commissions and for demanding basic living conditions.

Without year round, just cause eviction protection in this bill, we will all just be evicted in spring. This is not relief, its procrastination. And we will all be back here again to deal with an explosion of homelessness .

We are not asking that the state spend billions of dollars on us like big business has..

We are asking that you protect us from the greedy corporate monsters you created with decades of handouts and deregulation.

We are asking that the people we voted in protect Connecticut's renters, do their jobs and not side with out of state capital management groups that take billions of Connecticut dollars out of the state and out of the economy.

We ask that you you pass SB4 along with HB6588 out of committee along with amendments for year round just cause eviction protections and a 2.5% rent cap to protect the many tenants in CT from homelessness and unjust economic hardship

Let me finish by saying that Connecticut voters have entrusted you with the job of protecting us and the American way of life. And let me warn all of you. If you can't get the job done, we will

find people who can and vote for them. I want to remind everyone that this land was stolen from indigenous people and these cities were built by stolen labor.  
I am happy to answer any questions.